

**P-20 Council
Data Committee Meeting
May 12, 2008 - 1:00 p.m.
Meeting Notes**

Location: 1700 W. Washington, 6th Floor Conference Room A, Phoenix, AZ 85007
Committee Members Present: Dr. Sybil Francis, Dr. James Zaharis, Dr. Ron Rickel, Dr. David Curd (telephonic), and Alyssa Bisanz.
Staff Present: Lauren Kielsmeier, Erin Hart, and Debra Raeder.
Guests Present: Dr. Benah Parker, Dan Anderson, Amanda Burke (telephonic) and Christy Farley.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Dr. Sybil Francis called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. It was noted that Dr. David Curd and Amanda Burke were attending telephonically.

2. Update/Discussion: High School Graduation Rate:

- **U.S. Department of Education – Proposal for Uniform Graduation Rate Definition:**
Proposal by the USDOE does mirror the NGA graduation definition adopted by all 50 governors.
- **Update Arizona's Graduation Rate:** Dr. Benah Parker, from the Center for the Future of Arizona, provided additional information to the Committee on the drop in the graduation rate now being reported by the Arizona Department of Education. From 2004 to 2006 the rate has decreased by 7%. Dr. Parker indicated that it appears that the drop cannot be pinned to one demographic group, a particular ethnicity, or to the requirement to pass AIMS to graduate (in 2006) as students were allowed to augment their scores to graduate. Dr. Parker reported that ADE is suggesting that the drop is due to better record keeping, which would call into question previous years' data. Dan Anderson, from the Arizona Board of Regents, reported that information from the Common Core of Data, which obtains its data from the Arizona Department of Education, reflects "holes" in the data, as well as "suspicious" data that appears to be identical from one year to another. The Committee engaged in lengthy discussion on this information, and whether this decrease should cause us to shift our goal of increasing the graduation rate by 12% by 2012. The Committee has asked for information and an explanation of these changes from the Arizona Department of Education.

3. Update/Discussion: Transfer of Student Identifiers to Higher Education Institutions

Christy Farley, from Northern Arizona University (NAU), updated the Committee on SB 1045 that was enacted three years ago and requires community colleges and universities to collect K-12 SAIS identifiers. Issues have arisen in that students do not know their identifiers and school districts are not reporting the SAIS identifier to higher education institutions or on student transcripts. NAU is leading the effort for universities as they attempt to resolve this issue. It was further reported that during the last meeting with NAU and ADE staff, ADE committed to build a web interface to provide SAIS identifiers to higher education institutions. To date, this interface is still not available and no timeline for completion has been shared. Committee requested that staff arrange a meeting with Dr. Francis, university/community college key staff, and ADE to discuss the issues/resolution to this issue.

4. Update/Discussion: Arizona Education Data Warehouse

Donald Houde, of ADE, was unable to attend the meeting. The report will be moved to next month's agenda.

5. Update/Discussion: Dropout Prevention Initiative

The Governor's Office has applied for America's Promise grant that will create strategies to address drop out prevention through a statewide summit. This project is part of a national effort through America's Promise to convene a summit in each state and in the 50 largest cities with the largest concentration of low-performing high schools. A response is pending regarding the grant application, and is expected soon.

8. Next Steps

Dr. Francis requested an update from the Arizona Department of Education regarding the graduation rate data and to discuss the cause of inconsistencies in the data. Staff will work to schedule a meeting to address the student identifier issue.

9. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to address the Committee.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Sybil Francis at 2:10 pm.